

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

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CONNECTICUT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 1963

"Above all, the cause of conservation needs a new generation of outdoor philanthropists.... The individual who wishes to contribute to conservation has numerous options. He may donate land or money to state or federal park agencies such as the National Park Trust Fund. He can give his land, his money, or his time to a private organization such as The Nature Conservancy."

Steward L. Udall,
U. S. Secretary of the Interior

1963 NATIONAL CONVENTION TO BE IN CONNECTICUT AUGUST 23-26.

On February 2, 1963 our Chapter Chairman attended a meeting of the National Board of Governors in Washington, D. C. and extended to the Board an invitation from the Connecticut Chapter to host the National Convention of The Nature Conservancy. This invitation was accepted. Also accepted was the invitation which Dr. Richard Goodwin conveyed from Connecticut College offering the use of their facilities as headquarters for the Convention.

Thus our Chapter now has the honor and responsibility of being host to the National Convention, which will be held on the last weekend in August, namely August 23rd - 26th. An invitation has been extended to, and we have high expectations of having as our principal speaker, Secretary of the Department of Interior Steward L. Udall.

Other plans taking shape for the Convention include a boat trip to view biological and wildlife areas along Long Island Sound; presentation of papers and materials on scientific, educational and informational matters concerning conservation; field trips to natural areas already acquired by the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

This will be an excellent opportunity for all Connecticut members to meet each other and also to meet members of The Nature Conservancy from other states and to discuss with them the successes and difficulties they are having in their efforts to fulfill the aims of The Nature Conservancy. It is currently being thought that Friday evening will be devoted to demonstrations and discussions of the natural area projects completed, being worked upon or proposed by Nature Conservancy groups throughout the country.

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING, JUNE 28.

At the next general membership meeting, which will be held on Saturday, June 28, at the Connecticut Arboretum, the plan is to appoint persons to prepare information on each one of the projects in the State of Connecticut for presentation at the National Convention. This material might include pictures and descriptive material relating to the location, nature, history and future of the project. If no one from the Connecticut Chapter has approached you prior to this meeting, please make an effort to attend and select a project you would like to help with.

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES ELECTED

At the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter held on November 3, 1962 the following officers were elected:

Chairman:	Richard M. Bowers, Old Mystic
Vice Chairman:	Mrs. Richard D. Wolf, Wethersfield
Secretary:	Mrs. Norman B. Newton, South Glastonbury
Treasurer:	John Dunning, Burlington

Trustees: for three-year terms - Alexander B. Adams, Westport
Mrs. Henry Beers, Glastonbury

Several other members were appointed to various committees. In addition it was voted to contribute \$700.00 from the Chapter treasury toward the National operating fund of the Conservancy.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Since my election, I have already had the pleasure of meeting some of the members of the Connecticut Chapter, but am still looking forward to meeting more of you as the opportunity may arise. A pressing need now seems to be to appoint Management Committees to establish policies with respect to the use of the land holdings we in Connecticut already have for scientific, educational and recreational purposes. We are faced with making managements decisions. Certain projects or at least certain areas within some of them should be dedicated purely to scientific and educational purposes, while others may be designated for appropriate recreational use. It would seem in order for each Management Committee to submit recommendations for approval by the Board of Directors of the The Nature Conservancy of Connecticut, Inc. and the National Board of Governors.

MEMBERSHIP

It is interesting to note where our membership hails from geographically. We have some thin spots in certain areas of the State. Windham County, for instance, has a void, while Tolland and Middlesex Counties could use a boost also. It helps the Chapter and The Nature Conservancy in many ways to get new members. We would certainly like to have the entire State aware of The Nature Conservancy and its program. Let's see if each one of us can't find new members--especially new members from areas where our program needs to be better known.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP - 1962

<u>County</u>	<u>Towns</u>	<u>Membership</u>
Fairfield	25	126
Hartford	23	160
Litchfield	16	39
Middlesex	6	10
New Haven	14	60
New London	12	56
Tolland	2	4
Total	98	455

Plus: 23 member organizations

THE CONNECTICUT CHAPTER RECEIVES AN AWARD.

On March 19th our Chapter Chairman attended a meeting of the Southern New England Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America and received on behalf of the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy a plaque given as a Conservation Award to our Chapter for the excellent work which has been done in preserving natural areas in the State of Connecticut. This handsome 12" x 18" plaque reads as follows:

"In recognition of its outstandingly successful efforts, entirely through voluntary contributions and participation, to preserve for public benefit in as natural condition as possible a total of twelve separate tracts of unique natural habitat comprising more than 700 acres, the greater part of this area being acquired in fee, and in recognition of the great stimulation which its activities have given to private and public efforts to conserve Connecticut's natural resources."

LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS

Our Chapter Chairman has attended two recent meetings on behalf of the Connecticut Chapter. On February 28th he appeared before Governor Dempsey's Pesticide Committee and specifically urged each member of the Committee to personally read Miss Carson's Silent Spring in its original form and not in any condensed or edited version, in order more fully to understand the pesticide problem. Our Chairman also made three specific suggestions which he requested that the Committee recommend to the Governor for appropriate action. One was for legislation to prohibit chemical spraying by airplane over or near to any of the natural areas which our Connecticut Chapter owns or has an interest in. The second suggestion was to eliminate the present state subsidy which pays for half of the cost of the chemicals used by a town if and when such town undertakes an aerial spraying program designed to eliminate the gypsy moth. The third request was that arrangements be made for publishing annually in some state report or pamphlet of all information as to wildlife kills which have been reported to, analyzed by, or otherwise known to the various state agencies.

On March 21st our Chairman appeared at the State Legislature before the Joint Development Committees and placed the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy on record as favoring two bills pertaining to open spaces. One bill was the implementing of legislation for a proposed \$10 million bond issue for conservation and recreation. This bill in effect provides for a state subsidy of up to 75% of the cost of acquiring land by the town Conservation Commissions. The other bill provides for taxing open space areas owned by individuals or corporations not entitled to tax exemption on the basis of the value of the land for open space purposes. This bill is designed to prevent the assessing of open space land on the basis of its possible market value if the owner were to place the land on the market to be sold to some developer interested in destroying the open space characteristics of the land.

PESTICIDE COMMITTEE

The Pesticide Committee would like to call to the attention of the membership an article reprinted in Massachusetts Audubon and in the Audubon Magazine (March-April 1963, p. 70) by Dr. Stanley Cobb, entitled "Death of a Salt Pond".

A pamphlet entitled "Insect Control and Its Implications", the proceedings of a meeting held last spring in New Hartford contains important information on the gypsy moth issue. Copies may be obtained from the Farmington River Watershed Association, 24 East Main Street, Avon, Connecticut, for 25 ¢.

LAND ACQUISITION

Taine Mountain: Another 107 acres are being added to the Taine Mountain preserve, and funds are now being raised to meet the \$15,000 needed to consummate the purchase agreement.

Folly Brook: A one-fifth interest in a tract adjacent to Wethersfield Cove has been conveyed to The Nature Conservancy by Mrs. Francis Goodwin. This is contiguous to the Folly Brook Natural Area established by the City of Hartford.

Cochegan Rock: A 87-acre tract including an enormous glacial erratic boulder has recently been given to the Pequot Council of the Boy Scouts of America by Mr. William Becker and Mr. Louis Becker of New York in memory of their parents. This unique geological feature has thus been preserved in an open space setting and the tract will find appropriate use as a camping area for the Scouts.

AN OPPORTUNITY

Do you know of someone who would like to acquire a spacious country home with the protection of 270 acres of woodland and 30 acres of cultivated land, with shore frontage on a beautiful lake in southeastern Connecticut? Terms would include the permanent preservation of the wild land as open space. For details, including the desirable features, contact Chairman Richard Bowers, 20 Holmes Street, Mystic, or Richard H. Goodwin, Connecticut College, New London.

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